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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

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PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

VEMBER, 1956

Topics for December

EUROPEAN ENDEAVORERS GATHER AT NORWAY CONFERENCE

For Christ and the Church

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

Cover

Christian Endeavor leaders are pictured at the European Area Conference of the World's Christian Endeavor Union in Oslo, Norway, last summer. Dr. Daniel A. Poling, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, is seated fifth from the left in the front row. Next to him is Dr. James Kelly, vice-president of the World's Union. Fifth from the right in the front row is the Rev. Andrew Wright, who has just completed his work as area secretary. Mr. Wright succeeds Dr. Kelly as chairman of the Area II Committee.

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The Voice of Christian Endeavor

NOVEMBER • 1956

Volume 72, Number 3

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From The Executive Secretary

Christian Endeavorers in the News

Rev. Howard G. Teusink, secretary for youth work for the Reformed Church in America, and chairman of the educational committee of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, has been named the first director of the new Department of Stewardship for the Reformed Church. Our prayers and best wishes to him.

Our hearty congratulations to Cecil A. Jeffery, vice-president of the International Sociey in charge of the Pacific Region, who just completed 35 years of service with the Union Oil Company, California.

William J. vonMinden, New Jersey, auditor and member of the finance committee of the International Society, has been named director, Graduate School of Public Accounting, Rutgers University.

Our prayers and sympathy to Mrs. Vickie Fair Hansen of Denver, Colorado. Vickie and her young son, standing on a street intersection in Denver, were hit by an automobile. Vickie will be hospitalized for at least six months in Ward 4-West, Fitzsimmons Hospital, Denver, Colorado. Christian Endeavorers will remember Vickie who was the Denver District president who came to the great International Convention in Grand Rapids to extend the invitation to Denver 1953.

Your executive secretary rejoiced at the opportunity to attend a significant service in the South Side Christian Church, Hammond, Indiana, recently when Christian Endeavorer Kenneth D. Thomas was ordained to the Christian ministry. May God abundantly bless bless you, Skip.

Christian Endeavorer John Kalili, Jr., former president of the Honolulu County Christian Endeavor, Hawaii, was ordained recently in the Nanaikapono Protestant Church. Mr. Walter Nomura, favorite of Hawaiian Christian Endeavorers and Mainlanders alike, participated in the service as moderator, Oahu Evangelical Association.

New Opportunities For Service

The Corporation, in annual session this summer in July, voted to enlarge the membership of the executive committee of the International Society; this is to make possible a wider representation of Christian Endeavor international on this vital and important committee. Christian Endeavorers Eugene G. Alhart of New York state, Cecil A. Jeffery of California, Alden E. Imus of the District of Columbia, and Ralph E. May of Colorado have been elected to fill these interim positions until the next elections in July 1957 at the 44th International Convention in Portland, Oregon. A hearty welcome to these men to these important posts. We praise God that again men are willing to stand up and stand out for Christ through Christian Endeavor.

Is Yours A Christian Will?

Have you performed the important task of making a will? If you're like many of us you have not! Start thinking about it, will you—the challenge to Christian stewardship calls you to the task. Christian Endeavor has meant much to you—you can continue its ministry to youth through your will. Write to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio, if you are interested in placing Christian Endeavor International or the Extension and Perpetuation Fund of the International Society, Inc., in your will.

Alton Ingram Called To Life Triumphant

Christian Endeavorers from North Carolina and beyond the borders of the Tarheel state were saddened by the news of the death of state Vice-President Alton Ingram. Alton died at his home in Greensboro after an illness of two months. He was a member of the First Congregational-Christian Church in Greensboro, a past president of the Greensboro Christian Endeavor Union, and an enthusiastic witness for Christ through Christian Endeavor in every way and in every place. Our prayers and sympathy reach out to his mother, Mrs. Magnolia Ingram.

HAROLD E. WESTERHOFF
Executive Secretary

Speak for Christian Citizenship

Opportunity to win citizenship honors will again be given to youth of North America as the International Society of Christian Endeavor conducts its sixth annual Citizenship Contest. Awards totaling $1,000 in cash and two free trips to the International Christian Endeavor Convention in Portland, Oregon, July 8-13, 1957, will be made to the winners.

The contest is being held to alert young people to their responsibilities and to challenge them as Christian citizens.

Details for participation in the contest were announced by Robert C. Ross, citizenship director of the International Society.

There will be two divisions in the contest. All youth in the United States or Canada who are in high school or below on February 4, 1957, will be in Division A. Young people who are out of high school but have not reached their 25th birthday by February 4, 1957, will be classified in Division B.

Awards will be granted on the basis of "A Letter to My Congressman" (or in Canada, "A Letter to My M.P.") on the subject, "I Speak for Christian Citizenship," and a Christian Citizenship Service Record on beliefs and activities.

The first award in each division will be $200 in cash plus a grant (to a maximum of $250) for expenses of attending the International Christian Endeavor Convention in Portland, Oregon.

The second award in each division will be $100 in cash and the third award will be $50 in each division.

For the next six runners-up in the International finals in each division there will be awards of $25 for each.

Certificates of Recognition will be awarded the winners of all state and provincial contests.

How To Enter

Request official entry blanks from the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Nelda Thomas of Houston, Texas, top winner in Division B of the 1956 Citizenship Contest, is shown as she chatted with her Congressman, Albert Thomas, in his office in Washington, D.C.

Entry blanks must be sent by February 4, 1957, to the Citizenship Director of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

The "Letter" and Service Record must be in the hands of the citizenship director in the contestant's state or province no later than February 25, 1957.

Judging in the states and provinces will be completed by March 15. Winners in this part of the contest will then go to the nine regions for consideration. Highest ranking youth contestants in each division will be selected by the regional judges by April 5 after which the final selections will be made. The winners in the last stage of competition will be announced shortly after April 25.

Basis of Awards

Christian Endeavor's citizenship awards will be granted on the basis of Christian character, service as a Christian citizen and an understanding of Christian responsibility as evidenced by:

1. "A Letter to My Congressman" or "A Letter to My M.P." on the subject, "I Speak for Christian Citizenship." The "Letter" must not exceed 1,000 words and should show evidence of understanding of the Christian faith and its applications for present day living in community situations.

The "Letter" will count for 60% of the total score in the judging.

2. A Christian Citizenship Service Record which demonstrates the following:

(a) An appreciation of and willingness to accept Christian responsibility in your home, your church, your community and your country; a concern for good government.

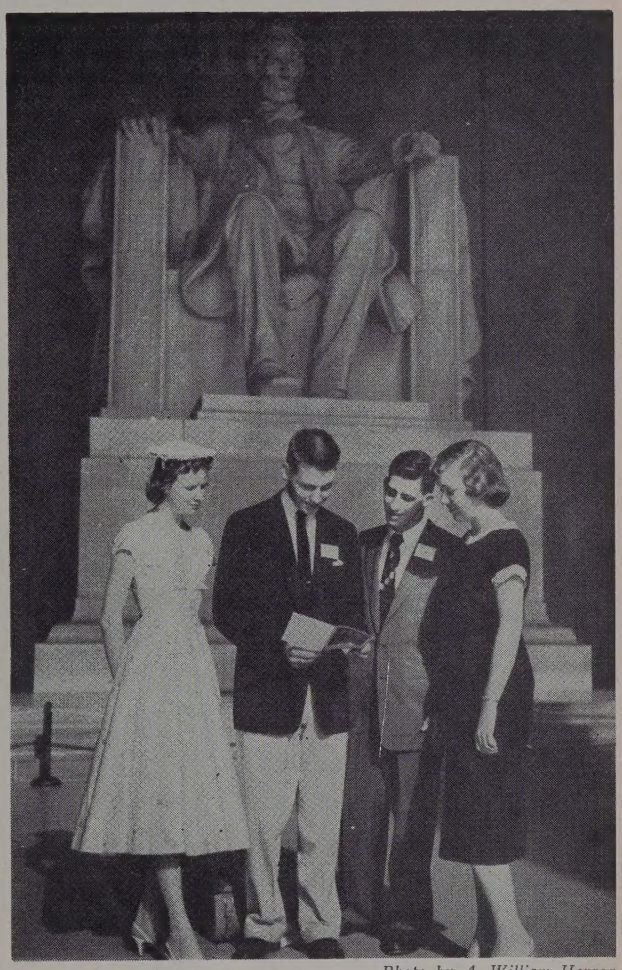


Photo by A. William Herzog

Delegates at the Christian Citizenship Convocation are pictured as they visited the Lincoln Memorial. They are (left to right) Sunny Lu Peer of Columbus, New Mexico; Stanley Settles of Denver, Colorado; David Jackson of Derby, New York; and Joyce Miller of Louisville, Kentucky. Joyce was the Kentucky winner in Division A in the 1956 Citizenship Contest.

(b) Christian character and education. Attitude toward others and evidence of growth in leadership and range of interests. An understanding of your chosen vocation as a Christian.

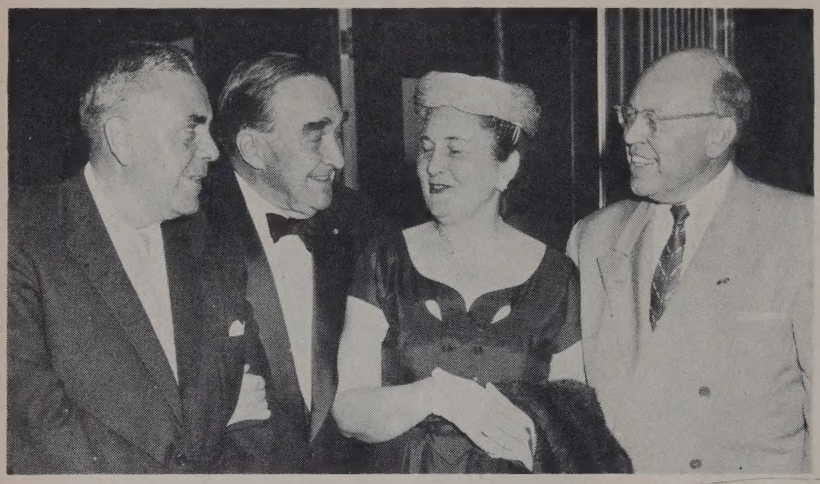
(c) Community service and evidence of interest and leadership in civic affairs and duties (encouraging registration for voting, efforts to combat Communism and other evils which threaten life and security.)

(d) Interest and participation in your local church, denominational (or brotherhood) and interchurch activities. Leadership in youth work, camps, conferences and conventions.

Each of the above four sub-points listed will receive equal consideration in the judging. The complete Service Record will count for 40% of the total score.

CITIZENSHIP CONTEST BLANK • PAGE 6

Dr. Poling – 50 Years in Ministry



A record of 50 years of dynamic, effective service in the Christian ministry on the part of Dr. Daniel A. Poling, of New York, distinguished American clergyman and religious editor, was recognized Sept. 28 at Carey, Ohio. At the Memorial EUB Church there, a special service was held honoring Dr. Poling with Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, minister of Marble Collegiate Church, New York, speaking. Tribute was paid to Dr. Poling, the president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and editor of the Christian Herald, by friends from many parts of the United States. Many trustees and other friends of the International Society of Christian Endeavor sent notes and telegrams including one from President Eisenhower. At a dinner preceding the service, above, Dr. Poling joined a group of long-time friends. From left are: Ford Stewart, president and publisher of the Christian Herald; Dr. Poling; Mrs. Stewart, and Stanley S. Kresge, president of the Kresge Foundation. Mr. Kresge is the son of the founder of the S. S. Kresge Co. and is a prominent Methodist layman of Detroit.

"All Hail!"

— A Sonnet —

All hail to a great Christian nobleman!
For half a century his rich career
Has touched the whole wide world,
both far and near.
A multitude of interests his lifespan,
All rooted in the Call, in which began
His ministry to youth and which endear
Him to a multitude. This very year
His jubilee in the eternal plan!

To Daniel A. Poling, leader, friend
We give affection, confidence and praise.
May he have strength for his great
work begun
Half-century ago, a true God-send!
May he have joy and peace throughout
his days,
At length receive his plaudit "Son!
Well done!"

September 23 William Hiram Foulkes
1906-1956

Dr. Poling Writes:

To All My Christian Endeavor Friends

It is just impossible for me to express adequately my appreciation for the messages, telegrams, cards and letters received on the occasion of my Fiftieth Anniversary as an ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You move me deeply and I shall not forget. Your words will live in my memory through the years.

The celebration in Carey, Ohio, and the services in the Evangelical United Brethren Church were memorable indeed. But it is your love and that of all the others that has now first place in my thoughts.

Sincerely and affectionately,

Daniel A. Poling

Packets Available For Christian Endeavor Week

Material to help you celebrate Christi Endeavor Week January 27-February 3, 19 is now available. The packets, which are cents each, contain a manual, radio and te vision presentations, worship service, banq and party plans, and many other useful pie of literature. Secure your packet from Int national Society of Christian Endeavor, 12 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

Honor Societies

Since the last publication of societies a unions that have officially become memb of the International Society of Christian E deavor by financial support during Memb ship Mobilization, several other societies ha been listed. The following groups have cured blue seals through contributions of $1

Senior, Danville Christian Church, Danvil Ind.

Calvary Methodist Church, East Liverpo Ohio.

North Bruce, United Brethren Church, P Elgin, Ont., Canada.

Trinity Evangelical United Brethren Chur Harrisburg, Pa.

Young People's, Brightwood Christi Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

C. E. Conventions And Conferences

DECEMBER

7- 8—Program Council of Internation Society, Columbus, Ohio

7-10—Christian Endeavor Executive Conference, Columbus, Ohio

New Secretary Named For European Area

Mr. Sharpe

William J. Sharpe is the newly-appointed general secretary of the European Area of the World's Christian Endeavor Union. Mr. Sharpe, who will guide the work of Area II, is a long-time British Endeavorer who is widely and favorably known on the continent. He succeeds the Rev. Andrew Wright, who is now serving as chairman of the Area II Committee.

ia the Eye and Ear

ictures Help 'Make' the Program

By Amy Deck Faust

ecently a writer, Elias Gray, told of a lesson he learned from his own small son. father had taken the boy to the zoo and of them had enjoyed the day immensely. they returned the child said, "We made a d day, didn't we, daddy?"

he father was impressed with the simple h of the child's statement, "We made a d day, didn't we?" The father said that he an to study what went into a good day, he found that good days were usually ide." The unhappy days were the ones that e left to chance and accident.

Mr. Gray began to examine his life and his days. He laid plans to make his days od," and starred them when they were. said that after careful search he counted total of the record of 1949. Although he more problems, and greater potential blems than usual, out of 365 days there e 311 of them "starred" as "good days." result came from planning, he was sure. n almost the same way meetings, programs, the year's work must be planned. "Good" grams are made, and planned. They come rarely by accident that it could almost be that "good meetings" are always "made." f, in the planning, the making, certain ele- nts are useful. Visuals may prove extremely pful.

Let us examine the meaning of "visual" for moment. "Audio-visuals" are those tools ich are used for entertainment, instruction, inspiration, and have a definite appeal to eye or the ear. Some tools are both audio visual. Sound motion picture film, slides film strips with recordings, visualized eches, drama, television, and other similar ns of communication appeal to both the and the ear. Radio, records, and music d the ear appeal, while pictures and various jected aids enlist the eye.

For the average youth group, a sound color tion picture film may not prove useful. ne films may be useful. And, some pro- ms may only be "made" by the right audio- ual. But our purpose here is for this ses- n to look primarily at visuals. These visuals y be accompanied completely by sound, ech, or music. For our purpose we will sider them potential tools without audio ompaniment.

Almost every church or youth group will have camera fans who could serve as a source help in visual teaching. Sometimes one large ture "makes" the program. It may be a ck and white print that is greatly enlarged. may be mounted, framed, and strategically ced. It may have gloss, matte, or some cial finish, and it could be tinted or in or if desirable. Such pictures may be made members of the group. They may be rrowed, or rented. One or more may be d in the program, but it is most certain that re must be planning.

Think for a moment about any picture. The value is its composition, its appeal to the eye and imagination, its skillful use, and the accompanying program. Pictures are a great help in worship settings. They are an aid in teaching. If they are well chosen, mounted, framed, and displayed there is a good possibility that such pictures will help to "make" the program.

The 2 x 2 or 3 1/3 x 4 1/4 slide is a similar tool. Some projected pictures, such as Sallman's *Head of Christ* prove to be strong visuals. They may be used without music or spoken accompaniment. Other pictures must be studied, explained, or made a part of the program by a written commentary.

The same evaluation is related to the filmstrip. Youth groups will find rich resources in the slides or filmstrips from art series. *Christ and the Fine Arts*, by Cynthia Pearl Maus; *The Life of Christ*, by Elsie Anna Woods; *Each With His Own Brush*, by Daniel Fleming, and paintings by Tissot, Sallman, and other artists could go into the "making" of programs.

The flannelgraph, map, chalk-board, turnover chart, poster, and a whole array of non-projected aids may serve as visual tools. The opague projector serves to project some of these aids onto the film screen if desirable. The entire array is too great for listing and evaluation here, but examine them because they help to "make" good programs.

All in Family for Portland '57

Timothy J. Kribs, president of the Oregon Christian Endeavor Union, hands his registration for the 44th International Christian Endeavor Convention to his mother, Mrs. Albert Kribs. Mrs. Kribs, vice-president in charge of registrations for the Portland Convention Committee, is already at work securing registrations from Oregon Endeavorers for the convention which will be held in Portland July 8-13, 1957. In 1925 when the 30th International Convention was held in Portland, Mrs. Kribs (then Mary Guiley) was president of the Oregon Union. Her husband, also a long-time Christian Endeavorer, is minister of the First Christian Church in Astoria. Tim Kribs, who follows in his mother's footsteps as Oregon president, is a senior at Northwest Christian College, where he recently received the Alumni Award scholarship. He is also a student pastor at one of the preaching points of Northwest Christian College. Under the guidance of Philip S. Hitchcock, general chairman, the members of the Portland Convention Committee are laying plans for entertaining hosts of Endeavorers in the City of Roses next July.

Three Unions Elect Presidents; Fourth Appoints Secretary

Christian Endeavor unions of three states have elected new presidents.

Gordon McMordie of Feasterville, Pa., is the new president of the Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor Union. A design draftsman at the Budd Company in Philadelphia, Mr. McMordie is an elder and president of the board of trustees of Hermon Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. He is past president of the Northeast Branch of Christian Endeavor and also of the Philadelphia County Union. Formerly he was president of the Presbyterian Sunday School Superintendents' Association and now teaches a men's Bible class in Hermon Church. Previously he served as treasurer and first vice-president of the Pennsylvania Union.

Miss Sara Anne Gosselink, second-grade teacher in Pella, Iowa, is the new president of the Iowa Christian Endeavor Union. Miss Gosselink attended Central College in Iowa and was a bookkeeper in Pella National Bank. Last year she taught first grade in Gilman, Iowa. Formerly a Sunday school teacher, she now plays the organ at her church and leads in the Girls' Junior League. Her hobbies are traveling, reading, and music. She was a regional winner in the 1955 Christian Endeavor Citizenship Contest and attended the Denver and Columbus International Christian Endeavor conventions.

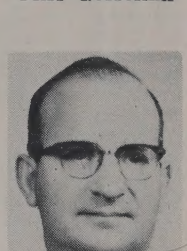
Miss Geraldine Ludwick, a clerk-typist for Motors Insurance Co., Roanoke, Va., is the new president of the Virginia Christian Endeavor Union. Born in Roanoke, she is a member of Melrose Presbyterian Church there. She was formerly chairman for publicity and publications of the Virginia Union. She is also counselor for the Senior High Christian Endeavor at her church and is a graduate of Jefferson Senior High School and the Virginia Southern Business College, both at Roanoke. For two years she was a delegate from Virginia to the Youth Assembly of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

The Rev. James P. Burch of Livia, Kentucky, is the new field secretary of the Indiana Christian Endeavor Union. Mr. Burch is a minister of the General Baptist Church and has served as pastor counsellor for the Kentucky Christian Endeavor Union. He has served pastorates in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, and Arkansas. He is chairman of the General Baptist Board of Religious Education.

Mr. McMordie

Miss Gosselink

Miss Ludwick



Mr. Burch

JUNIOR CE MEETINGS
The Quarterly for Juniors

Topics for DECEMBER

Dec. 2. **The Special Promise of Saviour.** Isaiah 9:2, 6,
Dec. 9. **To Christians.** John 14:1
Dec. 16. **We Know What God Is Li** John 14:7-12; Luke 2:8-
Dec. 23. **We Put Others First.** Matthew 2:1- Matthew 25:34-
Dec. 30. **Forward March!** II Peter 1:5-11; II Peter 3:

Price — $1.50 per year, 40c per cop Send orders, with cash, for copies subscription to International Society Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Bro Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

Home Sewing Opportunity

● **$200. Monthly Possible,** Sewing Babywea —Play-Time Dresses; lacing Leathe Moccasins; New Baby Sandals. No hous to house selling! Rush stamped, self addressed envelope for further details!

BABYGAY, P-17, WARSAW, IND.

ENTRY BLANK

Christian Endeavor Citizenship Contest

Valid only if postmarked no later than February 4, 1957

Citizenship Director
International Society of Christian Endeavor
1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio

I hereby enter Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Contest. Please send me the Service Record blanks.

Name .....
(Please Print)

Number and Street .....

City, Zone and State .....

Local Church .....
(Denomination or Brotherhood)

Date of Birth .....

I am in high school or below ..... ☐

I am out of high school but have not reached my 25th birthday ..... ☐

I agree to observe the rules and conditions outlined in this folder ..... ☐

.....
(Signature of Entrant)

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WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

ow Young Adults Aid

The Teen-ages

N ONE of the small churches about which wrote a month ago, Larry is completing term of office as president of the Inter- diate Christian Endeavor society.

'We'd have gone down the drain a few nths ago except for some of the ng adults," Larry says. "We had a ch of new kids, who seemed to be coming Christian Endeavor just to be with a crowd l stir up some excitement. Our minister in the hospital—and he was the one who l been giving us most of the help and port we got. Our counselor, who was rried to an Air Force officer, went off to rmany."

There wasn't one person among the young lts who felt prepared to fill in for the nselor and the minister—but, at first three, r five, young adults became a counseling mmittee or, as they liked to call it, spon- ing committee for Intermediate Christian deavor.

The young adults so divided their spon- ship that Prayer-Meeting Committee, Look- Committee, Service or Missionary Com- tee and Recreation Committee each had adviser, with the best posted among the serving as counselor to the president and ping to plan finances.

When the minister returned after his leave absence he found an Intermediate society t had promptly doubled in size and had ome an active agency for the enthusiasm l loyalty of his teenage boys and girls.

Yes, the weekly meetings were well led, l most of those who attended were par- pating, according to Christian Endeavor nciples. Recreational events had grown in iety, with skilled guidance—and Recreation l Service had worked in tandem to provide ayride party for a large group of younger ldren.

'I struggled to get out of taking the presi- ncy," Larry confesses, "but the way our own mbers pitched in and the y. a. committee ped out, I was sort of sorry when the time ne to appoint a nominating committee and ready to pass the job along."

Looked at from the young adults' viewpoint, rry's group was getting guidance and sup- t which were fully merited.

'They weren't waiting to be told, but to advised," says a junior-high teacher of phy- l education, who acted as president's coun- or. "Much of the time we were only an- ering questions—how had we seen such and h an activity run elsewhere? Should a iety try to build up a good balance in treasury, or try to disburse money for all necessary objectives as soon as it was eived? Should we try to get the officers l chairmen together quite often, or rely informal chats about the next month's ivities? Would Sally be a good chairman

Photo by Harold M. Lambert

Young Adult Workshop

By Bert H. Davis

for the nominating committee? Things like that.

"The five counselors had their heads to- gether quite often—sort of like a small-sized faculty meeting. But never did we think of ourselves as planning what would be done or running the society.

"I think we young adults found a good job to do and learned a lot more about Inter- mediate-age youngsters. Three among us are raising families, and some of our own children will be teenagers before very long. We'll understand more about our own girls and boys, and their possibilities, because of our 'refresher course' with Intermediates."

ROTATION among the counselors is now in progress.

Two or three among the five young adult sponsors are recruiting others from that age group to take their places.

The junior-high teacher who counseled President Larry moves into the Boy Scout program as adviser to a newly-organized Ex- plorer Scouts' Post. This unit for older Scouts grew directly from the sponsor's work in Intermediate Christian Endeavor. In his friendly talks with boys of 13 and older he found they were ready for the more advanced and adventurous experiences offered in Ex- ploring. "The troop is for eleven- and twelve- year-olds," they told him.

Other sponsors will be busy in church school work and in other church tasks.

Don't tell the young adults of this suburban congregation that their Intermediate-age friends are "crazy, mixed-up kids"! To the contrary, they express admiration for the straight thinking, ethical soundness and com- mon sense they've found among Intermediate Endeavorers. The teen-ages get excited and intense about spiritual matters, if these are ably presented and discussed.

These are comments by various members of the young adults' group which has been counseling teenage Endeavorers:

"If they're allied with a church, they intend that Christian faith should mean something vital and life-changing to them. They resent one-day-in-seven piety and the long-faced mor- bid ideas about religious faith. I can see something of the fiery aliveness of the disciples —cutting 'cross-lots, seizing a spear of ripe grain to suck on as they wander through the country on a Sunday afternoon." (You've recognized this as a reference to the story told in Matt. 12 and Luke 6.)

"They have all the enthusiasm and inspira- tion we'd like to find in all Christians—but of course they lack experience. They were willing to 'latch on' to our experience, as one girl put it, but they won't always agree that our ideas are best. Sometimes they said, 'That wouldn't work with our crowd,' and then we usually arrived at some merging of their ideas and ours."

"Part of the success of my retail business is due to keeping the teenagers coming, and giv- ing them satisfaction. I believe I'll be a better merchant after coming closely to grips with 1956-type teenagers. They're more mature than I was at the same age. They have more choices thrust upon them. Some of our teen- agers have considerable technical skill; I thought I was at the top of the heap as a radio 'ham' at fifteen, but today's kids are in a different league! Their money sense is good too. Some of the boys work during odd hours and some of the girls, with baby-sitting, pay for all their clothes and some other things be- sides, and they know what they like and how to make selections."

FIELDS for young adults' co-operation with the teen-ages would likely include:

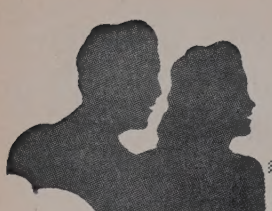
1. Counseling concerning worship services, recreational programs, missionary education, practical Christian service to others, financial phases of a teenagers' program—to be imple- mented through Intermediate Christian En- deavor, the church school and youth organiza- tions.

2. Workshop and crafts programs, with assistance in providing available equipment and materials. Men and women in industry or owning home shops may often be helpful. Tie working-with-tools and with one's hands to early Christian traditions: Jesus learned the carpentry trade, St. Paul was a tent-maker.

3. Counsel as to reading, the arts, including music, Christian symbolism and church archi- tecture, and the improving of church proper- ties and surroundings.

4. Working with audio-visual aids, drama and speech choirs.

5. Counseling in *organized* activities, to give young people experience in working to- gether for united objectives.



The Bible Is Great Literature

No. 1 in a Series: "The Bible—Today's Book"

Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:105-112

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS) *DECEMBER*

Comments by Raymond C. Steinhart

Briefing The Leader

1. Plan for a display of the various versions of the Bible.

2. Check at least five people to determine what portions of Scripture they enjoy most.

3. Prepare a list of the various tributes to the Bible—for example, "The Bible is the rock on which our republic rests" (Andrew Jackson).

4. What is your own opinion concerning the Bible? Write it down and examine it. Do you accept the Bible as God's Word?

Biblical References

We have two references, Psalm 19:7-11 and Psalm 119:105-112. God's glory appears often in the world of creation, but much more in and by divine revelation. The Holy Bible, as it tells both of our duty to God and what we may expect from Him, is of much greater use and benefit to us than day or night, than the air we breathe, or the light of the sun. In Psalm 19 the Psalmist gives an account of the excellent properties and uses of the Word of God in six sentences. In each of them the name "Lord" occurs. Observe v. 7, "The law is perfect." The law is perfectly free from all corruption, perfectly filled with all good, and perfectly fitted for the end for which it was designed, and it will make the man of God perfect. Nothing is to be added to it or taken from it. It is of use to bring us back to ourselves, to our God, to our duty; for it shows us our sinfulness and misery in our departure from God and the indispensable necessity of our return to Him.

Again, "The testimony of the Lord is sure" v. 7. You can rely upon it. It will not deceive you. "The statutes of the Lord are right" v. 8. They are just and they should be. "The commandment of the Lord is pure" v. 8. Clear without darkness, clean without dross and defilement. "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous" v. 9. There is no unrighteousness in any of them. They are grounded upon the most sacred and unquestionable truths. Note v. 10-11 where the Psalmist expresses the great value he had for the Word of God, and the great advantage he had, and hoped to have, from it.

What is your reaction concerning God's commandments? V. 11 indicates how highly the Psalmist prized the commandments of God. "More to be desired are they than gold."

The second portion is found in Psalm 119:105-112. Here you will observe the Word of God is a lamp and a light. It reveals to us, concerning God and ourselves, that which otherwise we could not have known. It shows us what is amiss, and will be dangerous; it directs us in our work and way, and a dark place indeed the world would be without this light. For the feet, we need the lamp; this indicates sureness in walking. For the path, in the running of the race, Christian activity, we need the light.

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What should be one's attitude toward the Bible in order to study it most profitably?

2. What do you consider to be the most interesting way to read or study the Bible? State the plan of study you use.

3. What attitudes toward the Bible are wrong?

4. What is your opinion about the Bible and its poetry? Its history? Its prophecies? Its message to God's people and a sinful world?

5. How can we bring about a more general habit of Bible reading in the home?

6. About how much time does the average family in your church devote to Bible study?

Basic Material

Two topics will take into consideration "The Bible—Today's Book." The first is "The Bible Is Great Literature"; the second, "The Bible Is Never Out-of-Date." Here is an excellent approach to Universal Bible Sunday.

After a careful analysis of the topic material, we ought to determine to do several things:

First, *we should give ourselves to a careful reading of the Word of God.* Why should we endeavor to accomplish this? A. The Holy Scripture is alive with God. B. It is an authentic revelation of the will of God to men. C. It is the immediate and necessary gift of God, immediate because here we meet God face to face, necessary because we are abnormal creatures having no power to discover the way of life for ourselves or to set right that which is wrong in our corrupt and fallen natures.

Second, *we should truly study the Word of God.* One of the chief causes of the widely prevalent spirit of religious indifference is the neglect of Bible study. The study of the Bible is at once an urgent present need and at the same time an abiding eternal need. The primary purpose of the Bible is not to satisfy the intellect but to correct the will. The Bible brings us at once into the immediate presence of God. Our object in studying the Bible is that we may be brought face to face with God.

Since the Bible is great literature we would suggest several ways to study it:

1. *The Synthetic Method*—Bible study by books.

a. Read the Bible itself a whole book at a time.

b. Read it continuously, without brea interruption.

c. Read it repeatedly, over and over aga

d. Read it independently apart from other books.

e. Read it prayerfully.

2. *The Topical Method*—study by topi

a. Study the biographies of the Wor God.

b. Study the geographical locations ir Word.

c. Study the great admonitions of Word: duty, watchfulness, forbearance, industry.

d. Study the great words in the Wor God: grace, forgiveness, atonement, sin, salvation.

3. *The Explanatory Method*—Study commentaries. The Bible commentary work of reference. Consult your pastor better understanding on this helpful to the Christian's library. Don't let the mentary cripple your thinking. Be careful it become a crutch.

Truly the Bible is great literature. The son who wants to have a competent knowl of the Word of God must be prepare work hard at it. Lightly come, lightly go for real value and permanent worth there be steady and sustained effort, and the re accruing will always be in proportion to sacrifices made, the pains taken, and the dustry displayed.

When it comes to the mastery of the B it is good to remember that nothing come out of nothing. You cannot master ten lessons, neither in ten weeks, or in years. To be a good student of the Wor God involves hard work. There is no method to master the Word of God. Bible is great literature, don't neglec Sin will keep you from it, but if read, stu and thoroughly applied, it will keep you sin. Make it the rule of your life to stu every day.

Backing The Project

1. Sponsor a community Bible class.

2. Plan a series of visual aid Bible stu

3. Organize a Know Your Bible (KYBC) in your Christian Endeavor so and keep a record of the number of cha read each week. Set aside a three-month pe for this project.

Best Illustration

There was once a briar growing in a d and there came along a gardener with spade. As he dug around it and lifted it the briar said to itself, "What is he d that for?" But the gardener planted it am the flowers, and the briar said, "What a take, planting an old briar among roses." the gardener once again made a slit in briar and budded it with a rose. Sum came, and roses bloomed on that old b The gardener said, "This is not due to came out of you but to what I put into y When God's Word is grafted into the h righteousness follows.

From God's Book

M., Nov. 26. Great History. Luke 1:1-4.
T., Nov. 27. Great Prose. Luke 15:11-24.
W., Nov. 28. Great Biography. Mark 1:14-25.
T., Nov. 29. Great Poetry. Psalm 23.
F., Nov. 30. Great Drama. Esther 6:1-11.
S., Dec. 1. Great Music. Exodus 15:1-3.
Sun., Dec. 2. Topic—The Bible Is Great Literature. Psalm 19:7-11; 119:105-112.

Our Bible—An Achievement

No. 1 in a Series: "Our Bible"
Luke 1:1-4; Psalm 119:9-16

ıtermediate (12-14 YEARS) *DECEMBER 2*

Comments by Raymond M. Veh

he Leader Looks Ahead

This is a three-session unit dealing with e meaning and use of the Bible. The aim to develop a greater appreciation of the ble through an understanding of the way od speaks to men through it; to discover me of the great truths it contains, which can ide in personal and social living.

To be most effective there must be a frank cing of the questions involved. Intermediates ould feel free to raise any doubts which ey have about the Bible and these doubts ould be dealt with in such a way that those ho have them will not be considered "un-thodox," or have any sense of being isolated om the group on account of their ideas.

It will be well to let the Bible, and the cts about it, speak for themselves. Use it in e meetings. Look up passages. Prove by the ble itself the various statements about its ique value.

he Bible Is God's Book

The Bible was written at God's direction. e directed the writers and guided them in eir work. Thus it is God's book. There no other book like it. (Study II Peter 1:19-1.) According to this, what was it that en-bled men to write? What would you say bout the truth of a book written under ese circumstances? What would you think bout its authority? How important, then, is e Bible?

Men wrote as God spoke to them. (Read refully Jeremiah 36:1-4 as an example of e way in which the books of the Bible came be written. The following explanations will elp in the presentation of this thought.) The rophet Jeremiah tells us just how he came write his book, which we know as the rophecy of Jeremiah. When Jeremiah was uite young, God had called him to be his rophet. (See Jeremiah 1:1-10.) For many ears he preached the messages God gave to im to speak. Then one day God told him write in a book all the things he had been reaching. Jeremiah and his friend and serv-nt Baruch sat down together. Jeremiah dic-ted to Baruch, and Baruch wrote in the ook what was dictated. It was probably n some such way as this that many of our ooks of the Bible came to be written. Faith-ul and inspired men wrote what God gave nem to say to His people.

General Questions

First, what is the Bible? It is a collection f a number of small books making one big ook. There are sixty-six: thirty-nine in the ld Testament; twenty-seven in the New estament.

Another question: What languages were sed in the original writing of the Bible? he Old Testament was written largely in Iebrew, with small portions in Aramaic. The nother tongue of Jesus was Aramaic, and me of the New Testament may have been mposed in this language. However, most of the New Testament was written in the common Greek of the plain people. We do not know what happened to the original writings, except that they naturally wore out from use. However, our scholars have had access to very dependable manuscripts. They are on vellum or sheepskin, and have been saved for many years.

OUR AIMS

1. To discover some of the problems, dangers, cost and achievement in the development of the Bible.
2. To meet some of the colorful, devoted translators.
3. To appreciate our freedom in reading the Bible today.

A Look to the Past

The Bible has been preserved for us under very difficult circumstances. For many centuries, every Bible that was produced had to be prepared by hand. First, the writing materials had to be prepared. This meant that sheepskin had to be tanned and prepared so it could be used for writing material. The scribe must then make his own ink and cut his own pen. When the materials were ready he would have to spend weeks and months writing out in longhand every letter and word of the Bible which he was preparing. Such a slow process was, of course, very expensive. Few people owned a Bible, and few churches could even afford one. We should feel very fortunate that we now have this wonderful message from God to read whenever we wish.

The Bible holds its place today primarily because of its religious significance. It was because of the religious devotion of the early Christians that the Hebrew scrolls and parchments containing writings that had any bearing on their religion were preserved and passed on to succeeding generations. It was also because of their ardent devotion to Christianity that earnest men of the Middle Ages translated the Hebrew and Greek scriptures—as far as these had been used by the early church—into the language of the people.

The Cost in Terms of Writing

Earliest writing was done on a kind of paper, which then was rolled into a scroll. This was the form of ancient books. Such a book, written by hand, would probably be very large and expensive. Many of the books were kept in a kind of library in the temple, and later in the Jewish synagogue or the church building, where everybody could use them.

We have the Bible in our own language only at great cost to others. Our Old Testament was first written in the Hebrew language and the New Testament in Greek. This language situation created no trouble until the church grew and spread into lands where people spoke Latin. It then was necessary that it be translated into Latin. Through the centuries, with great care, it was translated into more and more languages.

In 1380, the first New Testament in English was published by John Wycliffe. In 1525, the New Testament was *printed* in English for the first time. Even to the present day, this great task of putting the Bible into the living language of the people goes on. (Tell the group about some of the translations of the Bible since 1525. Your minister can help you with this information.)

As the 17th century opened the Protestant churches were torn by widespread dissensions. There was a feeling that a new, authorized translation of the Bible would help this situation. King James, quite an able scholar himself, gathered the best scholars about him and set them to work on a complete translation. Seriously they compared, evaluated and corrected the work of the past. In 1611 their work was finished. The King James translation is still with us, and has been universally accepted wherever the English language is spoken.

Recently there have been helpful attempts at putting the Bible into common, everyday language. The more helpful of these include: (1) The Twentieth Century New Testament in Modern Speech, Weymouth; (2) The New Testament in Modern Speech, Weymouth; (3) The Bible: A New Translation, Moffatt; (4) The Bible: An American Translation, the New Testament translated by Goodspeed, the Old Testament by Smith and others. (5) The Revised Standard Version in 1952.

Bible Meditations

M., Nov. 26. Inspired Revelation Of God. II Timothy 3:16, 17.
T., Nov. 27. Perfect History Of Man. Romans 1:18-23.
W., Nov. 28. Genuine Knowledge Of Truth. Romans 1:16, 17.
T., Nov. 29. Exact Pattern Of Holiness. I Peter 1:14-16.
F., Nov. 30. Divine Message Of Salvation. Hebrews 1:1-4.
S., Dec. 1. Exclusive Hope Of Glory. Romans 8:35-39.
Sun., Dec. 2. Topic—Our Bible—An Achievement. Luke 1:1-4; Psalm 119:9-16.

Suggested Activities

1. *Collect books for a Bible Exhibit.* You will want to be certain that you have copies of modern translations of the New Testament.
2. The members of your group may want to present the skits of the program to the junior department of your church school on a Sunday morning.

Worship Service

(The worship center should consist of an open New Testament placed between two candles. It would perhaps be wise to tell the group that the entire service is from the New Testament.)

Call to Worship: Grace be unto you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Meditation: Reading of Matthew 6:1-9 to be followed by praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Benediction: Ephesians 6:23-24.

The Bible Is Never Out-of-dat

No. 2 in a Series: "The Bible—Today's Book"

Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:22-25

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS) *DECEMBER*

Comments by Raymond C. Steinhart

Briefing The Leader

1. Write down some reasons why you as a leader of this Christian Endeavor meeting believe the Bible to be Divine revelation.

2. Repeat this several times, "I come to the Word of God to be searched thoroughly, guided definitely, and strengthened effectually."

3. Contact at least five people and find out first hand why they think the Bible will always remain a book that will never be out-of-date.

Biblical References

We have two references listed for our analysis, Isaiah 40:8 and I Peter 1:22-25. The 40th chapter of Isaiah opens with special instruction for all prophets and ministers of Christ to proclaim comfort to God's people. God does have a people in this world of confusion. It is God's will that His people be comforted even in the worst times. God has varied ways to comfort His people. One of these ways is through the Word of God. Here we are informed that nothing earthly has the enduring quality found in the Word of God.

The Apostle Peter in I Peter 1:22-25 exhorts the children of God to brotherly love. Because they obeyed the truth something did happen to them: "Ye purified your souls." To purify the soul supposes some great uncleanness and defilement, and that this defilement is removed. Peter refers to the Word of God as truth. We cannot fight against this truth of God. It brings us under conviction. It hurts us and heals us at the same time. We cannot love one another fervently unless we are purified by the power of God's truth.

Peter informs us that the Word of God is the great means of regeneration. The grace of regeneration is conveyed by the Gospel. No one can become a new creation in Christ Jesus apart from the Word of God. Peter wants us to know that the Word of God endures forever and that the genuine believer has been born again by the Word of God. The sincere person searching God's Word will discover for himself the plan and purpose of God. Paul said, "I know whom I have believed" and Job wrote, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

Basic Material

No book has such a history as your Bible. Almost all books except dictionaries, encyclopedias and anthologies are each the productions of individuals. Not so the Bible. Here you have the result of writing—extending over some 1,600 years, a period as long as from Diocletian to King George V. It is the work of some 40 authors. The Bible, therefore, slowly grew under the hands of many men, in different countries, and across 55 generations.

Surely the Bible is a literary marvel, and a moral miracle. Look at it again, and you will say, "How ancient," and you would be right. Here for instance is a poem over 3,000 years old, Psalm 90. Cities, such as Nineveh and Babylon, once thought to be impregnable, and empires such as the Assyrian and Roman, once regarded as indestructible, long ago crumbled to dust, and are now chiefly of archeological interest.

Yes, the Bible is a very ancient book. Nevertheless, the Bible is modern. There are millions of books of more recent date which are already out-of-date, but this old book, the Word of God, is the most modern of all. The Bible is never out-of-date.

Daniel Webster said, "I remember the time when at my mother's feet or on my father's knee I learned to lisp the phrases of the sacred Scriptures that have since been my daily study and vigilant contemplation. If there be anything in my style to be commended, the credit is due to my parents in instilling into my mind in early life the sacred Scriptures."

President John Quincy Adams, known as the "Old Man Eloquent" who attributed his powers of expression to the habit of reading the Bible through every year by devoting to it the first 15 minutes of each day, giving his soul regularly a breakfast of Bible truth before he fed his body, said: "I speak as a man of the world to men of the world; and I say to you, search the Scriptures. The Bible is the book of all others to be read not once or twice or thrice through and then laid aside, but to read in small portions of one or two chapters every day and never to be intermitted, unless by some overruling necessity."

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is the Bible regarded with special consideration by all Christians?

2. Who would you consider to be the most outstanding man of the New Testament? How much of this greatness do you think has come to him because of the Word of God?

3. Why do you read and study the Bible? Why would you recommend it for someone else to read?

4. What requirement do you think is most essential for an understanding of the Word of God?

5. When church leaders inform us that we are woefully ignorant of the Word of God, how do you react to such a statement? Do you resent it or do you accept it as true?

Scripture Readings

M., Dec. 3. The Convicting Word. Hebrews 4:12, 13.
T., Dec. 4. The Redeeming Word. I Peter 1:18-21.
W., Dec. 5. The Cleansing Word. Ephesians 5:26, 27.
T., Dec. 4. The Comforting Word. Psalm 119:49-52.
F., Dec. 7. The Enlightening Word. Psalm 119:97-105.
S., Dec. 8. The Enduring Word. Psalm 119:89-93.
Sun., Dec. 9. Topic—The Bible Is Never Out-of-date. Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:22-25.

"No man can understand the history of nation or of the world," said President Ja A. Garfield, "who does not recognize in it power of God and behold His stately go forth as He walks among the nations."

One hears much talk in the home about very latest works of fiction coming from press. The magazine articles and news it in the papers are freely discussed at the t and at the fireside. Why not, therefore, cuss the great literature to be found in the books of the Bible? It contains truth tha stronger than fiction.

Nothing has come from the pen supe to the story of Ruth. Nothing more fasci ing can be found on the shelves of the lib than the story of Jacob and his family. eloquence of any modern Demosthenes p by the side of the orations of the Apo Paul. The messages of the modern refor are feeble in comparison with the words the prophets. In poetry and devotional lit ture nothing has been written that excels sweet singer of Israel. Let us stop being timid about discussing the Scriptures. It home book and should be talked about in home.

Age adds value to certain things. Anti dealers are always searching for the gr prize in old-fashioned materials. Even tho the Scriptures have an ancient touch to th this is no indication that they are not tr worthy. Paul, a man of outstanding forc man of great intellectual ability, of inte feeling, of keen conscience and of determi will, was not deceived when he fully re upon the Word of God.

We must search the Scriptures. G thoughts are never revealed to listless read only to eager searchers. The treasures of G are not to be discovered without dilig search. The Bible is like a mine, and jewels are not to be picked up on the ro side. We must weigh its statements, dw many moments on its meaning, get hold its message and come to know it better e day.

Backing The Project

1. Organize a project to place Bibles your church pews.

2. Set aside an evening to repair chu pew Bibles and hymn books.

3. Encourage your pastor to organize young people's Bible study class.

Best Illustration

One of the first diamonds found in So Africa was picked up by a child playing side a brook. Some months afterward a ped came to the cottage where the child's pare lived. While displaying his wares he sp the stone lying on a shelf. He examined and asked the mother what she would take it. She said it was her son's. The ped offered the boy a wooden soldier and child gladly took it. In Capetown this s diamond brought the peddler a large sum was eventually sold to royalty for $125,0

Our Bible—What It's All About

No. 2 in a Series: "Our Bible"

John 20:30, 31; Genesis 1:1-8

Intermediate (12-14 YEARS) *DECEMBER 9*

Comments by Raymond M. Veh

Old Testament Concern

As we discovered last Sunday, the Bible is a collection of many books. Originally each was complete within itself, and dealt with specific problems. Thus it is impossible to say in a few words what the Bible is about. In general, we can say that it is about God and man. At times high peaks of fellowship are reached between these two, and we catch a view of true religion.

The Old Testament centered in the Hebrew nation and its development under Jehovah. The Hebrews agreed to be the chosen people of this Jehovah. The *covenant* is repeated many times, as it is given to Jacob in Genesis 35:10-12. This promise of Jehovah to give them a nation was almost the height of religion to the Jews, though much of it might pass for nationalism today. But with all their faults, their faith in God was unequaled in their day. They were led to believe in one God, who lays His claims upon all people. And the prophets picture these claims in terms of moral righteousness, social justice and national integrity.

New Testament Concern

Christ is the center of the New Testament. Here He is pictured as the Son of God—making clear the heart of a universal Father love. Said He, "I and My Father are one." And He made it clear that life can be lived fully and triumphantly. His desire and His service were the same—that all men might come to know God as He did and that every person might share His fulness of life.

The New Testament tells us the story of the early church. It records the development of the church from a band of Jewish disciples in Jerusalem to a fellowship scattered widely among the Gentiles. To be sure, there were changes, delays, persecutions, denials and critics, but the Christians could not be stopped. The movement grew in all directions—changing slaves and sinners into men of freedom and worth. Even the opposition of the great Roman nation was powerless before the spiritual strength of these men "born of God."

The Bible Includes All Kinds of Literature

Probably, of all the different kinds of literature, the story is most widely enjoyed. Let us select a few of the stories from the Bible and discuss them from the standpoint of literary expression and merit. It is rather difficult to give more than a statement or so in connection with them.

The Story

There is the love romance, the characters of which are Samson and Delilah. The locale is the land of the Philistines. The strong, robust young national hero of Israel is fascinated by the beautiful Philistine, Delilah. Though beautiful, she lacks the finer virtues of the Israelitish women. She has no appreciation of the cultural and religious background of her suitor; she has designs; she is an ardent nationalist. Samson becames infatuated with her, which brings him to a tragic end. The climax of the story is the revengeful self-sacrifice of the hero—a suicide that also caused the fateful end of hundreds of others. It is a fast-moving dramatic story.

Now let us take a slightly different kind of story. It deals with the national interest of one leader over against the suppressors of another race. This time the leading character is a heroine. We are thinking of the story of Deborah, the characterization of whom is as fine as you would want to read in any story. Deborah inspires Barak, and together they lead their people to victory. The story reminds one of Joan of Arc, the inspired leader of the French republic. Read the closing part of the story of Deborah and Barak (Judges 5), and you will be thrilled by their song of victory, which, by the way, is one of the oldest of Hebrew poems, and is frequently quoted.

The Drama

What about the drama? Not nearly as appealing as the story, but much more rigorous and vital. Well, there is drama in the Bible. Read Job. The characters are: God—Man—Devil. The plot: The struggle of evil circumstances and noble aspirations. Locale: The Land of Uz. Like the Shakespearean plays, one can dip here and there—any place within the drama—and pull out nuggets of rare beauty.

Biography

Biography is coming into its own. We can boast of any number of excellent works in this field. Is there anything in the Bible to compare with them? Well, not in size, but in quality, in the selection of the characters, and in the influence which they have exerted on other writings.

Immediately we think of the biography of David, that compelling hero of ancient Israel. He is one of the greatest figures in literature. He is an athlete, an army captain, a king, a lover, a religious leader, an intellectual giant. David appeals to young and old alike.

Then there is that greatest biography, concisely given in the four gospels. If you were to omit those passages in Mark, Luke and John which are treated in Matthew and then combine all that remains into a whole, you have perhaps the briefest biography that has ever been written. Here is the story of the Prince of Peace, the Saviour of the world; the story of the man who did more than any other person to influence culture, religion, goodwill and better understanding of humanity.

Poetry

And on and on we could go, pointing out examples of historical romance, fiction of the best and truest type, drama, philosophy, and poetry. Arrange to have brief readings of each of the kinds of literature suggested above. Then climax the presentation with selections from the great poetry of the Bible. Almost every book in the Bible contains some poetry. There is the Song of Miriam (Ex. 15); Balaam's prophecy (Numbers 23); David's Song of Praise (II Sam. 22); The Magnificat (Luke 1), and others which you can find in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.

Especially should the book of Psalms be used. Quote a verse from several of the Psalms, just to show the beauty that is inherent in them. Close the presentation by repeating in unison the Shepherd's Psalm.

Program Outline

HYMN: God of the Earth, the Sky, the Sea
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
SCRIPTURE: Psalm 111
SPECIAL MUSIC: Praise to God, Immortal Praise
TALK: Sketch of Subject
HYMN: O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand
READINGS: (Illustrating a few of the major literary types)
- History, Acts 6
- Poetry, Psalm 90: Isaiah 40: 1-11 (Goodspeed)
- Narrative, Esther 2:1-11, 15-20
- Legal Code, Deuteronomy 5:6-21
- Personal Letter, Philemon

DISCUSSION
OFFERING
DOXOLOGY
RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Every pastor has in his library books on the Bible. Ask him to suggest what would be most helpful for you to prepare this lesson. Also display some of these books that Intermediates might know helps in their appreciation of the Bible.

The Bethany Press, 2700 Pine Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., has a "Bethany Bible Quiz" by Glenn McRae. You might like to purchase this inexpensive Quiz to use with your group to test out their knowledge of the Bible.

OUR AIMS

1. To understand what the Bible contains.
2. To see how the Bible reveals Christ as Saviour and Lord.
3. To consider how Christ answers the problems that we face.

Bible Portions

M., Dec. 3. Eternal God. Hebrews 1:8-10.
T., Dec. 4. Fallen Man. Psalm 1:16.
W., Dec. 5. Redeeming Saviour. I Peter 1:18-21.
T., Dec. 6. Saving Faith. Ephesians 2:8.
F., Dec. 7. Christian Church. Acts 13:1-3.
S., Dec. 8. Future Glory. Revelation 21:22-27.
Sun., Dec. 9. Topic—Our Bible—What It's All About. John 20:30, 31; Genesis 1:1-8.

Nine Days Till Christmas

Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Galatians 4:1-7

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS) *DECEMBER*

Comments by Raymond C. Steinhart

Briefing The Leader

1. Interview at least five adults on this question: "Since we always assail the commercialization of the birthday of Jesus Christ, what can we do to make things different?"

2. Uncover nine reasons, since there are nine days until Christmas, for the coming of Christ into our world, also for His coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

3. Write down at least four ways to prepare yourself in order to keep Christ in Christmas.

4. Be sure to read the Biblical references.

Biblical References

We have for our instruction three references, Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, and Galatians 4:1-7.

Isaiah makes reference to John the Baptist who was indeed "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." John's mission was to prepare the way of the Lord. He went forth declaring repentance for sin. He made people ready through this proclamation for the reception of Jesus Christ, the suffering Servant of Jehovah.

Observe, it is a voice. Voices relate messages. When we hear voices we seek to understand their message. One of the reasons why we are so slow to grasp the message of God's voice is we are too busily engaged, we have our energies focused on too many little things.

In the book of Malachi 3:1 we have before us the mission of John the Baptist. He is referred to as "My messenger." The "messenger of the covenant" is a reference to Jesus Christ. It is interesting to observe the closing question of Malachi 2: "Where is the God of judgment?" It appears, they would say, that we can do as we please, go where we want to go, say what we desire, give expression to every urge within us, for God does not regard us, He does not see us. This is indeed a challenge to the Judge of all the earth. He is being dared to do His worst. His justice is defied.

"Behold the Judge stands before the door." The God of judgment is at hand. In Malachi there is a direct answer to the profane demand of the scoffers of those days which closed the foregoing chapter. "Where is He?" and Malachi answers, "Here He is." He is just at the door, the long expected Messiah is ready to appear, and when He comes He will judge the world in righteousness. His judgment will never be questioned. Those who come under that judgment will not be able to talk their way out of it.

For additional consideration on John the Baptist, who was God's messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus, study Matthew the third chapter. There you will find the mission of John the Baptist, the chief subject of his preaching, his unworldliness, his popularity, his courageous utterances and his attire.

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is there anything we can do to keep Christ in Christmas as far as the commercial world is concerned?

2. What suggestions can be offered to enable us to better prepare ourselves for the Christmas day and all that it means?

3. What can we do as a society to give a spiritual emphasis during these nine days till Christmas?

4. What do we need most during these days—more faith, more joy, more love, more devotion, or more zeal?

5. What are your personal plans to get the most spiritual good out of these wonderful days?

During these nine days till Christmas we can think about the Christ of whom John the Baptist said, "He is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear." He saves His people from their sins.

Basic Material

The Old Testament tells the story of God's ancient people. It is a marvellous story. In many ways it is like the story of other ancient peoples, but in at least one respect it is totally different. In the Old Testament account, from beginning to end, the entire story is viewed in relation to the eternal God. It is this that makes the story different from other histories. Whether one studies the history of the Israelites, or their laws, or their institutions, or their teachings, or their songs, in it all one is struck by this great fact, that all things were thought of in relation to God.

God created the universe and, as the climax of His work, made man. Very soon man sinned against God, and catastrophes followed. Man was scattered abroad. Different races, different languages, different religions developed. Finally, men understood neither God nor each other. Then, from among the nations, God chose the family of a man named Abram to begin again a people of God in the world. Through Abram's children God blessed the world.

Note Matthew 1:1: "Jesus Christ the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." This indicates that Jesus Christ is of the nation and family out of which the Messiah was to arise.

Bible Portions

M., Dec. 10. More Faith. I Corinthians 16:13, 14.

T., Dec. 11. More Joy. Philippians 2:16-18.

W., Dec. 12. More Love. I John 3:16-18.

T., Dec. 13. More Humility. Micah 6:8.

F., Dec. 14. More Devotion. Philippians 3:7-11.

S., Dec. 15. More Zeal. Titus 2:11-14.

Sun., Dec. 16. Topic—Nine Days Till Christmas. Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Galatians 4:1-7.

Christ is here first called the Son of D because under that title He was comm spoken of among the Jews.

During these nine days till Christm would be time well invested to study promises of God concerning One desig "The Seed of the woman." (Genesis 3: Read and re-read Psalm 22 which is a gra picture of death by crucifixion. The cir stances are precisely those fulfilled in the cifixion of Christ. Don't forget to read I 53. It reads as though it was written at base of the cross when Christ died, bu was written about 700 years before C was born.

During these nine days think about s of the great truths about Jesus Christ. tells us that He was declared to be the So God with power by the resurrection from dead. Those who believe in Him as the Sav find the answer to the question, "Who is H He is the Son of God and this explains perfect goodness. It explains His perfect His perfect oneness with the Father. Word of God reveals this truth: Jesus C is the Son of God, the Saviour of the w

Again, think about Jesus Christ as center and heart of the Bible. He was visible image of the invisible God. He l to forgive. He had His hands extended help all who came to Him. He feeds hungry, opens the eyes of the blind and br life to the dead. Wherever you see Him action He is doing good.

Check these suggested Bible referen Genesis 3:15; 4:4-7; Leviticus 16; Psalm 2. 16, 18; Isaiah 53. When you do, recall it for you Christ gave Himself.

Backing The Project

1. Plan a special event for the negle children of your community, perhaps a Christmas party and worship service. Sho Christmas film.

2. Plan a special Christmas surprise the elderly people of your church, 65 y and up. Make it a church night they will about for a long while.

Best Illustration

When Whitefield went to America, he st on the steps of the courthouse in Philadelp and preached to the people. In the crowd a little boy who noticed that Whitefield a difficult time reading the Bible in the light. He went to his home and got his lante lit it and held it up for Mr. Whitefield. T boy listened to Whitefield preaching and came so interested he let the lantern dr Many years afterward Whitefield came back America. He stopped at the house of a m ister who asked him if he remembered the b holding the lantern. "Yes," said Whitefie "I have often wondered what happened him." "I am that boy," said the minister. followed the star and was numbered amo the wise men.

Our Bible—How To Use It

No. 3 in a Series: "Our Bible"
II Timothy 2:4-15

Intermediate (12-14 YEARS) *DECEMBER 16*

Comments by Raymond M. Veh

Find Your Way

There are as many personal ways to use the Bible as there are persons. We can consider only a few. But we should set our viewpoint first. Always we should approach the Bible reverently, with an inquiring mind. If we want truth, we will find it. If we want inspiration, it is there.

Two Rules to Follow

First, read the Bible. Read it thoroughly. Read it with all your powers of concentration. Dig into it deeply, for while there is much on the surface for the careless gleaner it is only the earnest student of the Word of God who reads earnestly, faithfully, constantly and prayerfully and really gets at the great truths which the Bible contains. So put your mind on it and read it.

Second, obey the Bible. That means living by what you learn from it. D. L. Moody used to say it was not those parts of the Bible which he could not understand that bothered him so much as the parts which he could understand. He knew perfectly well that in time he would understand partly the obscure, but the most important task was to live by that which he already understood. So it is with us.

Memorize Favorite Passages

Gems of literature, expressing the truth about life, are abundant in the Bible. All of us should commit some of them to memory. They are inspiring, and they form a sort of standard of good taste for other good literature. Make your own selections. You will certainly wish to include some of the following: Psalms 1, 8, 19, 23, 90, portions of 51 and 103; sections of Isaiah; the Beatitudes; Luke 4:16-21; I Corinthians 13.

To Understand the Books

Some general ways to discover the original message of the Bible are as follows: (1) by books—taking a given book for minute study; (2) by a comparative study of similar books —such as the first three gospels; (3) by themes—tracing a given topic through the New Testament and summarizing the teaching found.

Use Group Study

Here a given passage or a given book is minutely examined for its message. Every one should have his Bible, and serious discussion should center around the actual meaning of the passage as given and its message for our times.

Scripture Quiz

Conduct an oral quiz in which the leader asks questions and the first member to recall the answer gives it. (Bible references are given so that the answers can be looked up if no one knows them.)

Can You Remember

1. The names of the twelve apostles? (Matt. 10:1-4)
2. Nine characteristics which Jesus named as making for "blessed" or happy living? (Matt. 5:3-12)
3. A convert who was at first afraid to acknowledge Jesus publicly? (John 3:1, 2)
4. Three of the parables of Jesus? (Matt. 13:4-9; 24-30; 20:1-16; 25:1-30; Luke ch. 15.)
5. The name of an official whose daughter Jesus healed? (Mark 5: 22, 23)
6. A striking instance of ingratitude to Jesus? (Luke 17:11-19)
7. Where the disciples were first called "Christians"? (Acts 11:22-26)
8. The exact words of any sentence spoken by Jesus? (A hundred places in your New Testament.)
9. What Jesus said about the kinds of people who should be entertained as guests at a feast? (Luke 14:12-14)
10. How Matthew became a disciple of Jesus? (Matt. 9:9)

You might vary the meeting

(1) by using a true-false contest.

(2) Show small copies of pictures of Bible stories to members who are lined up in two lines as for a spelling bee. Give each member a turn to identify the book of the Bible in which the event pictured is described. As in spelling bees, have each sit down as soon as he fails. The winner is the final survivor of the two lines.

OUR AIMS

1. To determine to understand God's Word.

2. To get simple rules for Bible understanding.

3. To undertake a daily, systematic study of God's Word.

Questions

1. Can anyone think of an easier way to understand the Bible, other than bother learning background material, etc.? Will other ways work as well?

2. What are the dangers in just opening the Bible any place, reading a verse or two, and trying to live by it—as many people do?

3. Work out a simple Bible sentence in code (A-1, B-2, etc.), and let the members try to decode it on individual papers.

4. Can you tell of instances in history where Bible knowledge has helped people?

5. What does Bible study do for people?

6. Ask your pastor or a counselor to tell of ways of Bible study that have meant most to him or her.

Bible References

M., Dec. 10. Study The Scripture. II Timothy 2:15.

T., Dec. 11. Believe The Spirit. John 20:30, 31.

W., Dec. 12. Trust The Promises. II Peter 1:1-9.

T., Dec. 13. Love The Truth. I Peter 2:2-5.

F., Dec. 14. Practice The Commandments. II Timothy 2:2-7.

S., Dec. 15. Teach The Word. I Timothy 6:17-21.

Sun., Dec. 16. Topic—Our Bible—How To Use It. II Timothy 2:4-15.

Some Helpful Procedures

Read slowly, and with imagination. This is important for pleasurable reading. With practice and knowledge it becomes fascinating, full of wonderful people, full of amazing stories, romance, action, and a beautiful soul-warming, personality-lifting reverence.

Present-day youth are used to reading huge quantities of words in order to find the idea or story. In the Bible a full-length novel may be told in a few verses. The rest is up to your imagination. In many ways those early people were smarter than we. They expected their readers to do some thinking, too.

As you read, *continually pause to picture what is taking place.* How did Saul feel when Samuel anointed him king? What would have happened if David had been caught in his tricky double-dealing with the enemy?

Take, for an example, the story about Elijah in contest on Mount Carmel. Read chapter 18 of I Kings. Read it slowly, live it. Start with verse 16, if you prefer. Ahab is king of Israel, Jezebel is queen. Baal was a foreign god. Look for a moment at verses 20 and 21 —just a few words, but picture what was happening. Thousands of people coming from all parts of the land for the contest, all the religious leaders from Baal's temples gathering in priestly robes for their part, Ahab and Jezebel surrounded by military escort, driving in the royal chariot up the mountain, then walking further. Elijah all alone, defending the name of God. On this decision might hinge the future of religious worship. All the work of Moses and David and countless others might be lost. Standing on the mountain side alone, his life in the balance, Elijah prepares for the contest . . . and so on. Read it with imagination until it lives.

Do the same with every passage in the Bible. This is meat, not gravy. It must be chewed. It's worth chewing. It was written to be chewed. It's been chewed on for centuries. It retains its heavenly flavor. Chew on it yourself.

Use the Prayer Approach

Always preface your Bible reading by a brief prayer that God's Holy Spirit will bring the truth of His Word to bear upon your heart. As you open the Bible to read from the place where you have left off, ask yourself this question: "What is God's message for *me* today?" Exclude from your mind every thought of the application of this message to other persons whom you know in your own home or among your business associates and friends. This is God's message for *you.* The power of concentration and the ability to apply God's message to your own life, and yours alone, will come slowly. It will increase with your growth in spiritual discipline.

In The Light of The Star

Matthew 2:1-11

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS) *DECEMBER*

Comments by Raymond C. Steinhart

Briefing The Leader

1. Write down a list of the changes which have come into your life since Christ came into it.

2. What benefits have come to humanity because of the light of Christ's star? List them and present them.

3. Try to find out a little more about the stars in the heavens.

4. Can you think of hope, peace, redemption, love and grace apart from the Christ, the Morning Star?

Biblical References

We have one reference for meditation, Matthew 2:1-11. The Gospel signifies good news, or glad tidings. The coming of Jesus Christ into our world to die for our sins is without doubt the best news that ever came from heaven to earth. Matthew was a Jew by birth; by profession a publican, by employment a tax collector, until the day when Jesus Christ called him to follow Him. He was therefore a competent witness of what he has here recorded.

Here is an angle of approach: The Sages, the Star, the Saviour. 1. Their inquiry, "Where is He?" v. 2. 2. Their encouragement, "Seen His star" v. 2. 3. Their example, "Fell down and worshipped" v. 11. They were wise men, not so much for their learning, but because they sought God diligently. In the light of that star they continued their journey until the star stopped over the place where the Christ-child was.

This visit of the wise men shows us: 1. How God speaks to us in various ways. 2. How truth, if it is to be grasped in its fulness, must be earnestly sought for. These wise men had a little stock of truth to start with, and they made the most of it. Some word, some example, some inward inspiration, may be your star in the East. 3. This history teaches the real object of religious inquiry. It is much more than mere religious thought, it is the soul seeking the true center of the spiritual universe.

Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ, was a small town about six miles south of Jerusalem. The word "Bethlehem" denotes "House of bread." For out of Bethlehem came Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, bringing nourishment in a spiritual sense to multitudes. We who follow Him and love Him must continually feed our souls on this Bread of God in order to be spiritually matured. We must grow up in a genuine spiritual experience. This is the best way to keep strong. We must walk in the light of that Star, our exalted Christ.

Basic Material

If those wise men, who were scholars, knew the prophecy in Numbers 24:17 they also knew there was something kingly about the whole event. They knew that this special star threw a great light on a world-wide event, the birth of the King of the Jews. The wise men came from the East to Jerusalem and said, "Where is He?" Observe, they do not ask whether the King had been born. They are sure of that.

They saw an extraordinary star which they took to be an indication of an extraordinary person born in the land of Judea. The birth of Christ was brought to the attention of the Jewish shepherds by an angel, to the Gentile philosophers, or wise men, by a star.

Because of the star the wise men were brought to Christ. They said, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" Someone might have asked, "Why do ye make this inquiry?" They would have replied, "It is because we have seen His star." Others might have asked, "What business have ye with Him?" They would have had their answer ready, "We have come to worship Him." Have we seen Christ's star?

People are turning to the sky as a great field of study. A modern world's fair, "A Century of Progress," was opened by a light beam from the star Arcturus, 232 trillion miles away. Astronomers, perfecting greater and more powerful telescopes than ever before, are learning strange things that stagger the mind. Recently they discovered a "ghost star" that is some 3000 times the diameter of our sun, the largest known star in the universe.

There is no question in the minds of those who study the stars that people are fast becoming sky conscious. Planetariums are attr ing millions of truth seekers annually bec they set a new high standard in the gra and dramatic presentation of the news of stars. Five of these planetaria are in the Un States, at Chicago, Philadelphia, New Y Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh. There are 1 more in Europe.

Suppose you were at sea, what langu would a lighthouse speak? It would say, "K away from the rocks." Its light would that message to you. Suppose you lived o dangerous part of our coast, and heard signal gun fired by the Coast Guard, would know its message, "A ship is coming the rocks. Come and help." So the star sp to the wise men and it told happy news.

In the light of the star we should be Gospel reproduced in character and cond There are five Gospels. There is the Go according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and Jo but there is also the Gospel according to y This is a most important Gospel. If Gospel is not a good translation it may ca others not to read the four Gospels, and turn away from Christ.

In the light of the star we should serve Lord in newness of strength. Paul said, can do all things through Christ who stren eneth me." Members of Christian Endea world wide, ought to be diligent for Ch and His church. This is no time to re while the enemy of our souls is putting new and varied attacks. We must be wis serpents and be strong in the Lord if we to advance for Him and see results. Too m today within the church have ceased to ca the burden. In the light of the star we be strong for Christ.

In the light of the star we can lead oth to Jesus Christ. We know that great chan have come to humanity since Christ has co And great changes will come into every that accepts Jesus Christ, the Bright Morning Star. Let that light, the light fr Him, the Light of the world, shine out your life today.

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Review the work of leaders within your church who were definitely influenced by the light of the Bright and Morning Star.

2. In your own mind, what great evils in your community are checked because of the power exerted by the Church of Christ?

3. How far can we go in obtaining world peace, at the same time ignoring the light of the world, Jesus Christ?

4. What changes have come about in your own life because of Jesus Christ the great Light?

5. What should your Christian Endeavor society be doing to spread the light of the Bright and Morning Star?

Daily Readings

M., Dec. 17. Star Out Of Jacob. Numbers 24:17.

T., Dec. 18. Rod Out Of . . Jesse. Isaiah 11:1-4.

W., Dec. 19. Thou Bethlehem. Micah 5:2-4.

T., Dec. 20. Behold A Virgin. Isaiah 7:14, 15.

F., Dec. 21. A Child Is Born. Isaiah 9:6, 7.

S., Dec. 22. He Shall Be Great. Luke 1:30-33.

Sun., Dec. 23. Topic—In The Light of The Star. Matthew 2:1-11.

Backing The Project

1. If possible, have your society plar visit to a planetarium for a lecture on stars.

2. Remember the shut-ins of your chu at this time. Plan a little cheer for them. T will appreciate it.

Best Illustration

Seeing a little boy repeatedly enter church on Christmas day, a minister as him, "What gifts did you ask of the Chi child?" "Oh," came the reply, "I didn't Him for anything. I was just in their lov Him a little while."

Take Christ out of Christmas and Dec ber becomes the bleakest and most color month of the year.

"Christmas is a big love affair removing wrinkles of the year with kindly rem brances."

What Child Is This?

No. 1 in a Series: "Holiday Themes"

Matthew 1:18-25

termediate (12-14 YEARS) *DECEMBER 23*

Comments by Raymond M. Veh

hose Birthday o We Celebrate?

Young people like birthdays. Each Christ- s the world celebrates the birthday of One o was born a Babe but changed the world. celebrating His birthday we've got a lot things mixed up in it—Santa Claus, Ru- lph the Red-nosed Reindeer, St. Nicholas d others. Hence we need to get the message this poem by Lewis Greene, Jr.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY?

hose birthday do we celebrate
hen Christmas comes around,
nta Claus, or Rudolph,
the kid from over town?
do we 'mid our endless haste
ause now and visualize
he barren hills of Bethlehem town—,
he Shepherds prostrate on the ground,
he Star, the Wise Men on their way,
he Angel Host, "peace" as they say?
hose birthday do we celebrate today?
hose birthday do we celebrate
s round the fire we meet;
r "Merry Christmas" loudly hail
o each one on the street?
hose birthday do we celebrate
hat on this wondrous day
akes all men brothers for awhile,
uts hate and greed so out of style,
heers weary travelers on their way,
nd heathen hosts to pause and say:
hose birthday do we celebrate today?
hose birthday do we celebrate?
Child born long ago,
Child who left His home above
o dwell with men below.
ho came to earth that we might hear
hat chorus in the skies,
ho came, His boundless love to tell,
rove peace on earth with men could dwell;
uide us along life's weary way
nd comfort give us as we pray.
is birthday we celebrate today.

—Permission courtesy BUILDERS

What It Meant Then

The coming of the Christ-child meant ifferent things to those who had a part in e story. To Mary the birth of her first child as a source of wonder and hope and dreams r the future (Luke 2:9; 1:46-55).

To the shepherds on the hillside it was a essage of peace and goodwill to all men, cause for great joy (Luke 2:14-18).

To the wise men it was the fulfillment of dream, the coming of a King long proph- ied (Matt. 2:1-11).

To Herod it was a threat to position and ower (Matt. 2:3, 7, 8, 16, 17).

To the jostling crowds of Bethlehem it eant nothing unusual—if they were aware the birth at all, simply another child born peasant parents. Great numbers had been nging for the coming of the Messiah. Yet ew recognized His coming.

OUR AIMS

1. To see how God operates in history.
2. To appreciate the Babe of Bethlehem as God's supreme gift to the world.
3. To sense how we can make Christmas a means of rebirth of human joy.

Questions

1. What names were given to God's Son?
2. What does "Saviour" mean?
3. Why did the angels sing when Jesus was born?
4. Does "Christian" mean anything to people who are not Christian?
5. Why did Herod kill the babes of Bethlehem?
6. If Christmas means "good news" why don't we spread it all year long?
7. The Wise Men knew when they had found Christ, for they could see Him. How can we be sure that we have found Him?
8. Why are children today to be considered a gift of God?
9. Are there some projects your society could utilize to bring joy to children who may not have much Christmas cheer?

God Breaks Through to Men

A little child looking at a large portrait of her long-absent father was led to exclaim, "Oh, if only daddy would break through and talk to us!" That is just what God did at Christmas—He "broke through" in the person of Jesus and now we can understand and know God better. One of the names ascribed to Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning God with us (Matt. 1:23). A number of times Jesus reminded His disciples of this great meaning in His life (John 14:6-11). Christmas is the dawning of light, a light which will lead men to God (John 14:6; Luke 1:79). The tragedy is that today as then men do not recognize and follow this light (John 1:4, 5; 3:19-21).

The birth of the Christ-child was the gift of love from God (John 3:16). It was love come down from God, tender and beautiful as the stories of Christmas. But it was also an expression of a love that was strong and determined in the face of wrong and death, a love which followed the way of the Cross.

From God's Book

M., Dec. 17. The Son Of God. John 17:1-4.
T., Dec. 18. The Prince Of Peace. Isaiah 9:6.
W., Dec. 19. The Saviour Of Men. Matthew 1:18-23.
T., Dec. 20. The Word Of Truth. John 1:14.
F., Dec. 21. The Bread Of Life. John 6:47-51.
S., Dec. 22. The Alpha And Omega. Revelation 21:5-7.
Sun., Dec. 23. Topic—What Child Is This? Matthew 1:18-25.

What It Means Today

I. *The World Has a Saviour.*

The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and declared—"I bring you good tidings of great joy, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

The birth of the Christ-child was for a specific purpose. He did not come into the world to do social work, although He did that.

He did not come into the world specifically to heal the sick and open the eyes of the blind, althought He did that.

He did not come into the world specifically to reform society, although He did that.

Jesus came into the world specifically to seek and to SAVE those who are lost.

The Christ-child is not going to force Himself upon us. He is not going to belligerently thrust Himself upon our wills. Rather, He says—

"Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.

"Come now let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow.

"Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

Will you accept Him as your Saviour, or will you spurn His offer of salvation?

II. *The coming of the Christ-child into the world gave to the world the Hope of Life.*

The words of Jesus that He came into the world that men might have life should bring joy and happiness to all mankind. The desire of all people is for a long, happy and contented life. The song writer expressed the innermost wish of us all when he said—"I love life and I want to live."

But we will never fully experience the joy of living unless our Will, our Ambitions and our Desires are under the control of Him who said—

"I am come that they might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly."

III. *The coming of the Christ-child into the world has brought the world The Hope of Peace.*

In the announcement concerning His coming, the prophet Isaiah declared—"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

In fulfillment of that prophecy the angelic chorus sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, Peace, Good Will toward men."

The most significant day of all days is Christmas. But it can lose its significance. Each of us in his own life must determine which it shall be:

A celebration or a commemoration.
A holiday or a holy day.
A day of adoration or a day of gaiety.

Take Stock and Reorder

Philippians 3:13-16; I Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 6:3-5; Lamentations 3:40

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS) *DECEMBER*

Comments by Raymond C. Steinhart

Briefing The Leader

1. Prepare a list of resolutions that you would consider of value to your Christian Endeavor Society. Read them at this service.

2. Meet with your officers in special prayer for divine guidance during the next year.

3. Give careful and thorough attention to the Biblical references.

4. Do some thinking of your own. It's profitable.

Biblical References

There are four scriptural references for this lesson, Philippians 3:13-16, I Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 6:3-5, and Lamentations 3:40.

In the opening verses of Philippians 3 we see what Paul the apostle renounced, but beginning with v. 9 we see what he laid hold on and resolved to cleave to, Christ and heaven. He had his heart on these two great peculiarities of the Christian religion. In the first place, he had his heart upon Christ as his righteousness. He desired to win Christ, v. 8. He desired to be found in Christ, v. 9. He desired to know Christ, v. 10. He desired to know the power of Christ's resurrection, v. 10. He desired to know the fellowship of His sufferings, v. 10. He desired to receive all the benefits of Christ's death, v. 10. All this is worthwhile and gives the Christian something to do to make his own Christian experience stronger. Do you know of any better resolutions to begin 1957?

I Corinthians 10:31 is a rather short verse, but very long if we carry it out in all its implications. In all that we do we should aim at the glory of God. Here is a good rule for Christian conduct. Our own interests must not determine our practice, but the honor of God and the good and edification of the church. We should not consult our own pleasure and interest so much in the advancement of the cause of Jesus Christ among men.

In Galatians 6:3-5 we observe several things: 1. We are taught to deal tenderly with those who are overtaken in a fault. 2. Paul tells us the manner in which it is to be done. 3. He warns us to be careful in our evaluation of self lest we deceive ourselves. He advises us to prove our own work. Finally, he would have us understand we must bear one another's burdens and our own burdens, for each man must give his own account. We must do our utmost for Christ and His Church.

The final reference is from Lamentations 3:40. The prophet in v. 39 seems to check himself for the complaint he made in the first part of this chapter. He reflects upon God as being unkind and severe. When God deals with us in a very specific way it has a glorious result. It will bring us home to Himself. We are apt, in times of public calamity, to reflect upon other people's ways, and lay blame upon them; whereas our business is to search and try our own ways so we may turn from the evil of them to God. This was the method David took. "I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies."

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Does this statement convey any truth, "The older a Christian is the stronger Christian he ought to be"? Prove it!

2. What are your plans as a Christian Endeavor society for the coming year? Write them down on a blackboard and consider each one.

3. Is there any way we can insure having future happiness?

4. What has the past taught you about faith, hope, love, wasting time, good books, investment of life, and the danger of putting off what ought to be done today?

5. How can we be more effective during 1957?

Basic Material

There is a story in the book of Nehemiah about a potter who was molding a piece of clay. It became marred in the making. So the potter decided to remake it, to fashion it all over again. "So he made it again." Though not without loss, that was the clay's second chance. The New Year gives us, in God's great providence, another chance.

We stand at the threshold of another year. The past is irrevocable. The Lord grant pardon for all its sins and shortcomings. The future is before us. We may not draw the curtain. In many ways it is an unknown land. How shall we prepare ourselves to go into it?

1. *We know that there is work to be done.* The prayer of Christ for us is that we might bear fruit, much fruit. Since we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we dare not shrink from cares and burdens and responsibilities. Yet who is sufficient for these things? We cannot begin the journey alone. We cannot go unprepared. If we do, the journey through the new year will be too much for us. Plato said, "Self-dependence is the secret of a successful life." On the contrary, it brings a sure failure. We need a good pair of sandals for the journey. My weakness, God's strength; these are the sandals wherewith we journey successfully along the path of duty.

Heisod said, "Work is no disgrace. It is idleness that is a disgrace." We believe Homer can reach our hearts with his true statement, "Light is the task when many share the to This applies to every member in Christ Endeavor or any other circle where yo people are banded together to do a great for Christ and His Church.

2. *We know that temptations will round us.* This must be. The gold must tried in the furnace. The bell must be bea before it is hung in the tower. One th is sure, we are never alone in the hour trial and temptation, unless it is our desire be alone. To be alone adds up to failure despair. If we yield to temptation it is cause we have refused help from God. For is not far from anyone of us. Hear the wo of Plautus, "If you have overcome your clination and not been overcome by it, y have reason to rejoice." Kempis wrote, "F tries iron and temptation tries a man." Ten tations are like tramps, treat them kindly a they return bringing others with them. can expect Satan to work overtime in a stro endeavor to make us yield to sin and ha our fellowship with God marred.

3. *We know that sorrow, grief and he ache will meet us through the year.* Elipl said, "Man is born to trouble as the sparks upward." How wonderful to understand t God knows. There is blessed strength in th Byron said, "Sorrow is knowledge." That true, for one does learn a lesson of rich a full dependence on our Heavenly Father the time of sorrow and loss. Elsie Robinso in a syndicated column, wrote, "Open y mind and your heart to the realization th sorrow is God's way of helping us to gr up, and to grow near to all the rest of t world." We can expect grief, heartache a sorrow as we enter the New Year.

4. *We know that it will afford many portunities to do service for Jesus Christ a His Church.* The Persians have a proverb interest, "Square yourself for use; a sto that will fit in the wall is not left in the wa To give real service you must add somethi which cannot be bought or measured money, and that is sincerity and integri

From The Book of Books

M., Dec. 24. To The Uttermost. Philippians 3:12-14.
T., Dec. 25. In His Strength. Philippians 4:10-13.
W., Dec. 26. For His Glory. II Corinthians 10:13-18.
T., Dec. 27. By His Grace. Ephesians 4:7-11.
F., Dec. 28. Beneath His Cross. Colossians 1:24.
S., Dec. 29. After His Likeness. II Corinthians 3:17, 18.
Sun., Dec. 30. Topic—Take Stock and Reorder. Philippians 3:13-16; I Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 6:3-5; Lamentations 3:40.

Backing The Project

1. Plan to master one of the epistles in t New Testament during the first six months the new year.

2. Meet with your pastor and the officers your society to plan well your work for t coming months.

3. Look into the possibility of supporting native missionary for 1957. Check your d nominational mission board.

Best Illustration

A statue in Florence, Italy, was fou broken to fragments. A patient man with fi tact replaced the shattered particles. The ima was restored. We have read of restored pi tures, restored old buildings; and men lo upon human wrecks and cry out, "Impossib and beyond restoration." Jesus Christ com and looks upon the wrecks of humanity a cries, "These also can be restored."

Take Stock and Reorder

No. 2 in a Series: "Holiday Themes"

Psalm 90:1-14

ermediate (12-14 YEARS) *DECEMBER 30*

mments by Raymond M. Veh

Wonderful New Beginning

hat a wonderful thing a new year is! gives one a sense of new beginnings—ne has walked this way before, no one lived the days of this year, no one has ed it up with a lot of mistakes and half-ted attempts to reach their goals.

e're not sure what it will bring us. piness—sure, if we are sure what happi-is and how we can find it. Opportunities enty of them: a whole bucketful every Sadness—possibly, for it is a part of the rience which everyone faces and which ne can predict. Tough luck—plenty of Accomplishments—we certainly hope so. ut right now we need to both look ward and look forward. New Year's makes eel an alone-ness as we face our failures our successes.

the business world there is a system of putation known as annual "accounting." t is, the businessman figures out the profit oss of the company during the year.

he same system could be very useful for of us. Couldn't we make an accounting or twice a year? Our job would be ier than the businessman's. He works with figures in black and white. We'd be ring with qualities nobody else knows thing about.

ur accounts may read something like this: ets—personality; good brain; good memory; ingness to work; honesty. Liabilities—bad per; thoughtlessness; laziness; extravagance. ur assets are as numerous as our liabili-then our books will be balanced—provid-of course, that the seriousness of our nses does not outweigh the advantages of good points.

ke Accounting Personally

Ve might work out a questionnaire: (1) I the type of person who chooses friends use of what they can do for me? Am I type who accepts or rejects an acquaintance use of the other people who have taken up? Or am I the kind who picks his nd because he admires his ideals and be-ior? (2) Do I sit by and watch while the er fellow does the work? Do I allow some-y to win the game just because he expends e energy? Or do I stand up and do my e with my shoulder to the wheel? And I give the victory to the other fellow only n I have done *my* best and he has proved ne that his best is better? (3) Am I ever ghtless and rude when it is just as easy to courteous and kind? (4) Do I accept favors out making returns? Or do I give as I ? (5) Do I expect others to go out of r way for me, or can I meet them halfway?

ke Accounting Spiritually

Am I any more devout than I was a year ? This means, am I any more confident of presence of God? Am I any more ready do what I believe to be His will when that will is plain to me? Am I any more concerned about the triumph of the cause of Christ in the lives of men than I was at the beginning of the year?

To be devout we must *be* something, not just *do* something.

Does good news from the mission field make me any happier now than it did a year ago? Every Christian is enlisted in a crusade which will not be completed until it has taken the world captive. Each individual Christian has a section of the front to guard. A victory anywhere along the line is a victory for all the line.

OUR AIMS

1. To make New Year's time a period of personal inventory.

2. To see what we are lacking in our spiritual life and endeavor to remedy this.

3. To concentrate on those values like love, kindness, concern, generosity, which pay big dividends.

Questions

1. How can one safeguard himself from failing in his resolutions?

2. What kind of celebration of New Year's is in harmony with Christian principles and practice?

3. If one should resolve that during the new year he will seek in everything to do what Christ would have him to do, what do you think the result would be?

4. What practical openings are there in the work of the church in your community which young people could fill for the coming year?

5. In what ways can a person check his goal to make certain that he is headed in the right direction?

6. Lights mark the limits of an airport runway. How do our ideals set limits for our actions?

7. Make up a list of resolutions for your Christian Endeavor group which will set real goals for it during 1957.

8. Can people who are not Christian have good ideals? Where do they get them?

9. What were the results of the questionnaire suggested in this topic?

Scripture Readings

M., Dec. 24. To The Uttermost. Philippians 3:12-14.

T., Dec. 25. In His Strength. Philippians 4:10-13.

W., Dec. 26. For His Glory. II Corinthians 10:13-18.

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S., Dec. 29. After His Likeness. II Corinthians 3:17, 18.

Sun., Dec. 30. Topic—Take Stock and Reorder. Psalm 90:1-14.

Have I made any progress in forgiving my enemies, in facing doubts, or in praying for those who have treated me badly? Do I still harbor grudges, seek revenge, refuse to speak to people, covet another person's praise, or refuse to serve on the committee of which I cannot be the chairman?

Do my prayers accomplish any more than they did a year ago? Am I praying for any greater usefulness in the Kingdom of God? Have I disciplined my own soul more determinedly, so that I have tapped larger spiritual resources as a result of my praying? Does anything happen within my own soul when I cry to God?

Make Accounting of Your Society

Is your Christian Endeavor society a liability or an asset? Do you finish the year in red ink or black ink? On the right hand or the left hand of the ledger? No more profitable exercise for officers and leaders can be found than serious consideration of this question.

Have you gained numbers during 1956?

Have youth been brought to Christ?

Are your youth happy over a ministry of helpfulness in your community?

Have the youth of the community been attracted to Christ through your ministry?

Has the average person, the youth on the street, a newer, better conception of Christianity?

Is the church, your church, a more efficient life-saving station because of your activities?

Reorder for Future Progress

It is the New Year. No longer can we put off the day of good deeds and purposeful activity. This is the day we promised ourselves greater achievement and more satisfactory living. It is the day we have been looking for. It is our day of opportunity!

So, why not go into business for yourself—the business of being a good Christian? Your capital is your character and the determination with which you work. Run your business in the way you know is right, to the best of your ability. Take inventory every now and then; and if you are short on some items, make a note to stock up on them. If there are some things that you would be better off without, eliminate them.

An old fable tells of a rich man who went to Heaven and was escorted past beautiful mansions to his own shabby hovel. When he objected to the size and makeup of it, the angel said, "We did the best we could with the material you sent us."

For a DIFFERENT Meeting

Use role playing in this meeting with the subject of the topic as the basis for the various roles. Several Endeavorers might be named to each of these situations:

a. Taking stock and reordering school supplies for 1957.

b. Taking stock and reordering a spiritual program for your church in the new year.

c. Taking stock of personal habits and making resolutions to correct wrong habits in the new year.

Attends Conference

Robert C. Ross, citizenship director of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, was a representative of the society to the 11th National Conference on Citizenship in Washington, D.C., Sept. 17-19. He served as host at one of the tables for the conference luncheon Sept. 17 and for the conference dinner Sept. 18.

"The Voting Citizen" was the theme of the conference, which brought together delegates representing hundreds of public and private organizations and agencies whose memberships and activities reach most of the population of the nation. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Education Association for its first nine annual meetings, the conference now functions independently under a charter granted by the U.S. Congress.

Nominations for Awards

Christian Endeavorers are eligible to make nominations for awards in the annual competition conducted by Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa. Sermons, public addresses, essays, editorials, community programs and other materials may be entered. Awards totaling $100,000 will be given to individuals, organizations, and schools for their work in bringing about a better understanding of the American Way of Life. November 11 is the final date for entries. Nomination blanks may be secured from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

This poster, one of 30 contributed by O'Mealia Outdoor Advertising, Je City, N.J., is part of a state-wide public service campaign for Christian Ende supported by members of the Outdoor Advertising Association of New Jer From left to right are: Raymond W. Schroeder, poster chairman; James Westerhoff, president, both of the New Jersey Christian Endeavor Union; Hugh F. McLaughlin of the Paterson office of O'Mealia. G. Becker Jamie secretary of the N.J. Outdoor Advertising Association, reports that more t 120 posters were displayed throughout the state. A few days after the pos appeared, Mr. Schroeder sent a printed broadside to the 2,000 Christian Ende groups in New Jersey listing all the co-operating outdoor advertising compa and locations of all posters. Says Mr. Jamieson: "This is the first time in I Jersey that a non-profit and religious organization has gone to such len to acknowledge the co-operation of outdoor advertising companies."

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Worldwide Bible Readings Recommended

hristian Endeavorers everywhere will find valuable help in the list of daily Bible dings recommended by the American Bible iety for the 13th annual Worldwide Bible ading. The readings can be made a part of h Endeavorer's daily Quiet Hour and will ce the reader among a growing fellowship daily Bible readers for a month and half.

As you read, read expectantly and when rt. Read prayerfully, thoughtfully and with- hurry. Welcome the leading which God's ssage seems to give you. Reread verses ich attract you. When He guides, follow. nen He condemns, bow penitently. When offers light, place your hope on it. When commands, obey.

The International Society of Christian En- vor continues to enroll thousands of En- vorers in the United States, Canada and xico as Comrades of the Quiet Hour. Their dge is: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ strength, I will make it a rule of my life set apart at least 15 minutes every day, if ssible in the early morning, for quiet medi- on and direct communion with God."

Ask today for our explanatory leaflet and a Membership Covenant Card for Comrades the Quiet Hour. And here are the World- de Bible Reading suggestions:

DECEMBER

1	Isaiah	55:1-13
2 Advent	Luke	6:20-49
3	John	1:1-28
4	John	1:29-51
5	John	3:1-36
6	John	4:1-38
7	John	15:1-27
8	John	17:1-26
9 Universal Bible Sunday	Luke	8:1-21
10	Acts	17:16-34
11	Romans	8:1-39
12	Romans	12:1-21
13	I Corinthians	13:1-13
14	Philippians	4:1-23
15	Hebrews	11:1-40
16 Sunday	Luke	10:23-42
17	Luke	11:1-17
18	Luke	12:22-34
19	Luke	15:1-10
20	Luke	15:11-32
21	Luke	1:1-23
22	Luke	1:24-38
23 Sunday	Luke	1:39-56
24	Luke	1:57-80
25 Christmas	Luke	2:1-20

For those who want to continue reading the Bible the last six days of the year, these passages are recommended:

26	Luke	2:21-40
27	Luke	2:41-52
28	Luke	3:1-23
29	Luke	4:1-15
30 Sunday	Luke	4:16-44
31	Psalms	90:1-17

Will you make Bible reading a daily practice? Ask your minister for lists, write your church headquarters or request the "Daily Bible Readings — 1957" (U-139) from the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, (Dept. U), 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

OVEMBER

Thanksgiving	Deuteronomy	5:1-21
	Psalms	19:1-14
	Psalms	27:1-14
Sunday	Psalms	46:1-11
	Psalms	103:1-22
	Psalms	121:1-8
		130:1-8
	Psalms	145:1-21
	Proverbs	3:1-20
	Isaiah	40:1-11, 28-31

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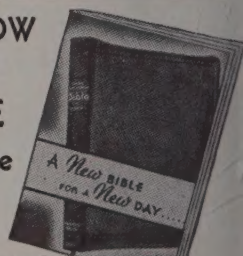

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